

Serial No. 09/804,246

Docket No.: 1573.1003

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 18, 21, 24 and 27 have been amended. Claims 1-30 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by Okada et al. in view of Bunny et al., and claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by Okada et al. in view of Bunny et al. and in further view of Moncreiff.

Claim 1, as amended above, recites "a table storing therein, in association with each other, identifiers of persons using said virtual communication spaces, identifiers of said virtual communication spaces and corresponding character-train information of the persons, said corresponding character-train information being used as said message sender identifying information; and means for determining a part of said character-train information to be used in one of said virtual communication spaces for a designated one of said identifiers of the persons, in accordance with the association of said designated identifier and an identifier of said one virtual communication space with the piece of said character-train information in said table means". The remaining independent claims 9, 12, 13, 18, 21, 24 and 27 are amended similarly.

Okada et al. (US Patent No. 6,393,461) discloses providing a user's instruction to an agent in a chat channel to read out a log file, and viewing, by means of a URL received from the agent, a chat log on a Web page which contains a chat log in the past and a chat log in which the user did not participate.

Bunny et al. discloses rewriting an IRC command with a nine character nickname.

However, neither of Okada et al. and Bunny et al. discloses or suggests "a table storing therein, in association with each other, identifiers of persons using said virtual communication spaces, identifiers of said virtual communication spaces and corresponding character-train information of the persons, said corresponding character-train information being used as said message sender identifying information; and means for determining a part of said character-train information to be used in one of said virtual communication spaces for a designated one of said identifiers of the persons, in accordance with the association of said designated identifier and an identifier of said one virtual communication space with the piece of said character-train information in said table means", as called for in each of the independent claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 18, 21, 24 and 27.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims 1, 9, 12, 13, 18, 21, 24 and 27 are allowable over the references and rejections of record.

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All remaining claims depend from the foregoing independent claims and accordingly, inherit the limitations thereof and correspondingly should be deemed allowable for the same reasons. Thus, claims 4-8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable. Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9 and should be allowable. Claims 14 and 16 depend from claim 12 and claims 15-17 depend from claim 13 and should be allowable. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and should be allowable. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and should be allowable. Claims 25 and 26 depend from 24 and should be allowable. Claims 28-30 depend from claim 27 and should be allowable.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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